

# Project Proposal

**Proposal Title:** Bartholomew Canyon Vegetation Treatment

**Proposal Number:** 1359

**DWR Region:** Central Region

**Lead Agency:** USFS

**County:** Utah

**Project Manager:** Lans Stavast

**PM Phone:** 8013425151

**Regional Priority:** Within Focus Area

**Project Type:** Terrestrial Habitat

**Proposed Start Date:** 7/1/2009

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**Project Location:** Bartholomew Canyon in the Left Fork of Hobbie Creek on the Spanish Fork Ranger District, Uinta-Wasatch-Cache National Forest.

**Project Description:** Mechanically treat and prescribe burn up to 1,000 acres within the oak/maple type and obliterate 5 miles of illegal roads/trails in Bartholomew Canyon

**Description of Problem/Need:** This action is needed, because the oak/maple community in the Bartholomew Canyon consists of large continuous canopies of mature/decadent oak and maple. Thick continuous canopy discourages use by many wildlife species, because of the lack of herbaceous understory forage production and seed production. Decadent oak produce fewer acorns, which are used by a variety of wildlife species. Wildlife species benefit from openings in the shrub/tree canopy and from a diversity of age and structural classes of shrubs/trees. These treatments would enhance critical habitat for moose, elk, mountain goats and turkeys. While this area is not critical habitat for mule deer it is summer range habitat.

The project area is also big game winter range. As development of houses in the area (on private land) increases the big game winter range decreases and the more critical it will be to have a properly functioning big game winter range on National Forest lands. Winters with abundant snowfall increase the need for proper functioning winter range.

User created roads and ATV trails, as well as illegal ATV use, are fragmenting wildlife habitat and disturbing the animals. ATV use is not authorized on the Forest within this project area. Forest Service roads in the area are open to public travel during the fall hunting season only. Otherwise, Forest Service roads remain closed to public access and are open for administrative use only, because access is through private land and is gated most of the year. However, adjacent land owners are illegally gaining access to these roads because their properties are behind the existing gate.

Forest Service Road 755 currently is shown as maintenance level 2 in the Forest Service records as an unimproved road not suitable for passenger cars. However, since Springville City has no need for the road, the road has not been maintained for years and it has become grown in with vegetation to where it is difficult to determine the road exists. Currently, no motorized traffic is using the road.

Fuels have been building up over the years on Forest System lands due to human cultural practices and changing climatic conditions. There are no recorded large fires (>100 acres) from 1960s to present within the project area (Forest Service fire history data). There have been a couple of large fires in areas not too far removed from the project area including the Cherry Creek II wildfire of 2003 that burned over 5,000 acres. Hobbie Creek is federally listed as one of Utah's Communities at Risk for Wildfire. The 2006 Northern Utah Regional Wildfire Protection Plan (RWPP) designates Hobbie Creek as a high risk area for wildfire. Risk of wildfire is a safety concern for private land owners in the Left Fork of Hobbie Creek. Fuels need to be treated along the Forest System/private boundaries to reduce the potential impact of a wildfire on the Hobbie Creek community. Hazardous fuels reduction treatments would help minimize the risks to private land, structures, and natural resources from potential wildland fires. Access to the area is risky for firefighters; the roads are narrow and thick with brush, providing for low visibility and lack of turn around space. If a wildfire was to occur and the public evacuated from the area the narrow roads thick with brush would be a hindrance. Springville City has public works infrastructure in the area that would be at risk if a wildfire occurred. Powerlines have a lot of brush and small trees growing under and adjacent to them. Loss of the infrastructure such as the water supply lines and water tank due to a large wildfire event would decrease the available water to the residents of Springville City.

**Objectives:** 1)□Mechanically treat approximately 30-60 percent of oak/maple vegetation type within approximately 1,500 acres of National Forest System lands in the Bartholomew Canyon area adjacent to National Forest System/Private Land Boundary and along the Bartholomew Canyon roads.

2)□Use prescribed fire to treat 30-60 percent of the oak/maple vegetation type within the targeted area (382 acres) within approximately 3,030 acres prescribed fire project area of National Forest System lands in the Bartholomew Canyon Area.

3)□Obliterate, close and reseed ~5 miles of user created roads and ATV trails.

4)□Improve defensible space (30-60 feet) around Springville City infrastructure under special use permit on National Forest System lands by removing shrubs and trees.

5)□Create three turnouts and parking along Road 755 for emergency vehicles and other equipment. Areas would be cleared and graveled. Maintain Forest Service Road 570 by clearing vegetation along road, adding water bars, and spot gravelling road as necessary. Seasonally gate and close Forest Service Road 570 above Springville City's water tank (road would still remain open for administrative use). Change the FSR 747 from an objective maintenance and operation level 2 to a level 1 (change the road from high clearance road to an administrative use only road).

6)□Monitor, and treat infestations of noxious weeds as per the current weed management program of the Forest.

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**Relevance to Strategic Plans:** This project lies within the mountain shrub type which is one of the key habitats identified in the WAP. This area supports mule deer (Tier III). Numerous other species of concern (Tier III) also inhabit the area including neotropical birds and raptors.

The proposed treatments lie within a Central Region UPCD focus areas.

The proposed projects will address some of the habitat management objectives outlined in the deer management plan for herd unit 17 (Wasatch Mountains) including: maintain and/or enhance forage production through direct range improvements throughout the unit on winter range to achieve population management objectives; work with private landowners and federal, state, local and tribal governments to maintain and protect critical and existing winter range from future losses; provide improved habitat security and escapement opportunities for deer.

The proposed projects will address the following goals and objectives of the Division of Wildlife Resources most recent strategic management plan:

Resource Goal: expand wildlife populations and conserve sensitive species by protecting and improving wildlife habitat.

Objective 1: protect existing wildlife habitat and improve 500,000 acres of critical habitats and watersheds throughout the state by 2010.

Objective 3: conserve sensitive species to prevent them from becoming listed as threatened or endangered.

Constituency Goal: Achieve broad-based support for Division programs and budgets by demonstrating the value of wildlife to all citizens of Utah.

Objective 2: improve communication with wildlife organizations, public officials, private landowners, and government agencies to obtain support for Division programs.

2003 Uinta Land Management and Resource Plan

Northern Utah Wildfire Protection Plan

**Potential Risks:** This site is in risk of a catastrophic wildfire due to heavy fuel loading.

**Proposed Methods:** A masticator will be used for the majority of the Mechanical treatment and will be contracted out. Chainsaws and chippers may be used for creating defensible space. A helicopter with a helitorch will be used to ignite the prescribed fire. A Dozer with rippers will be needed to rip roads.

**Shapefile Name:** 1359.shp

**Seed Source:**

**UPCD Reg Team Coord Date:** 1/13/2009

**Proposed  
NEPA Action:**

**Proposed  
Arch Action:**

☒ **Vegetation Monitoring** ☐ **Wildlife Monitoring**

**Monitoring Information:** Fuels monitoring has taken place pre-treatment and will continue post treatment. Weed monitoring will occur post treatment.

**Grazing  
Management:**

## SPECIES BENEFITING

Mule Deer

Neotropical Birds

Raptors

Elk

## LAND OWNERSHIP

Owner	Acres
USFS	1000
<b>Total</b>	<b>1000</b>

# Project Proposal

## PROPOSED FUNDING

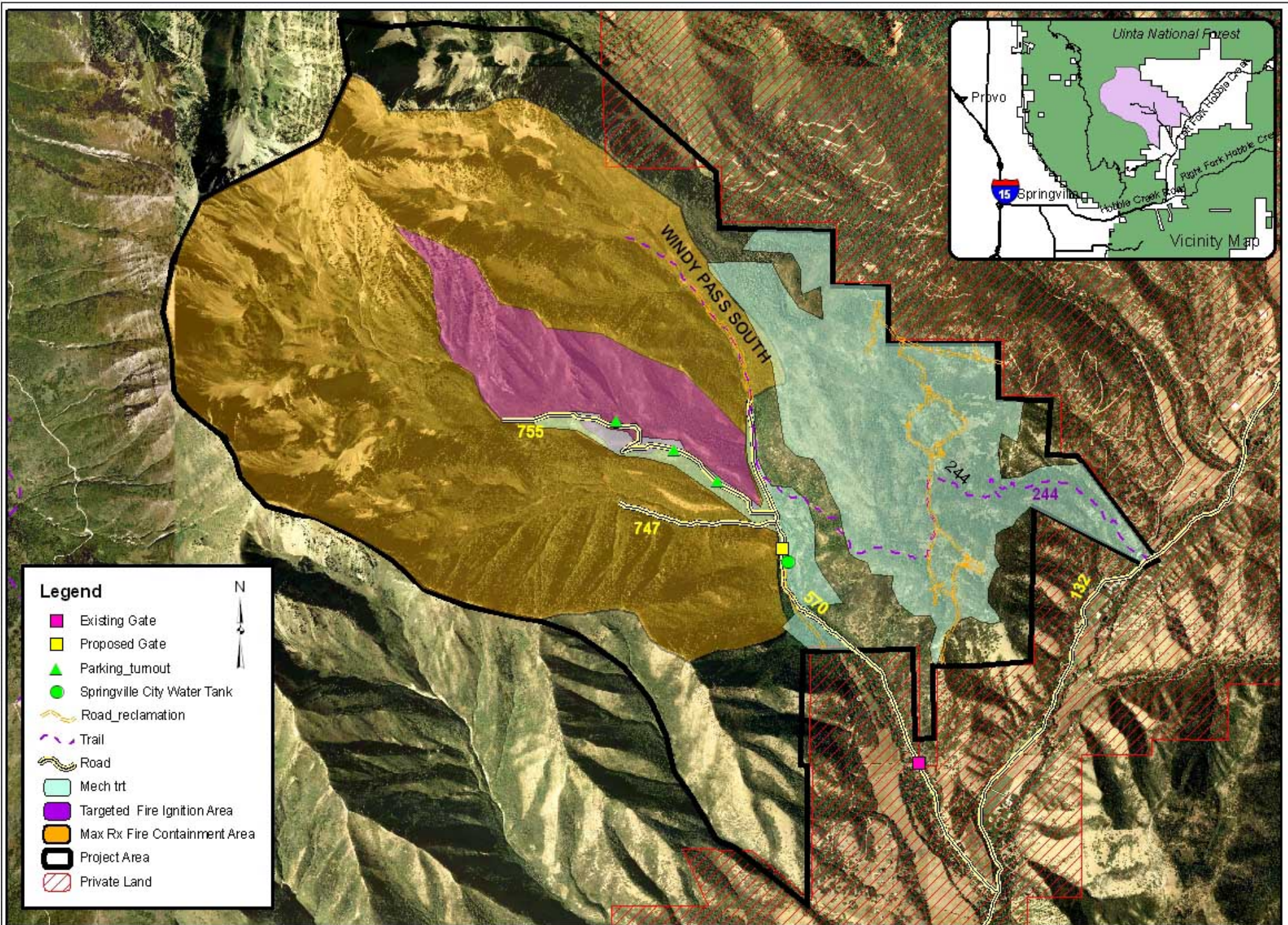
Source	Amount Requested	Date Approved	Amount Approved
USFS	\$281,000.00		\$0.00
Other	\$25,000.00		\$0.00
Unfunded Balance	\$93,750.00		\$0.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$399,750.00</b>		<b>\$0.00</b>

## PROPOSED BUDGET

Item	Description	DWR Account	Partner Contrib.
NEPA	Uinta-Wasatch-Cache personnel and field work	\$0.00	\$25,000.00
Contractual Services	bullhog for up to 750 acres of treatment	\$75,000.00	\$150,000.00
Other	Rx fire -Uinta-Wasatch-Cache NF personnel/supplies	\$0.00	\$100,000.00
Other	Road Maintenance by Springville City Corp	\$0.00	\$20,000.00
Equipment Rental	Dozer for ripping user created roads/trails	\$5,000.00	\$0.00
Seed (GBRC)	Seed for 5 miles of roads/trails	\$2,000.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	road barricades	\$10,000.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	road signs	\$750.00	\$0.00
Materials and Supplies	weed treatment	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
Other	Defensible space Springville City infrastructure	\$0.00	\$10,000.00
	<b>Totals</b>	<b>\$93,750.00</b>	<b>\$306,000.00</b>

## Project Map:





United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Uinta National  
Forest

Spanish Fork  
Unit

## Bartholomew Canyon Vegetation Treatment

Lans Stavast 10/06/2008